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The People's Korea

No. 983 EVERY WEDNESDAY MARCH 5, 1980 (1961年8月22日第3種郵便物認可)

President KIM IL SUNG Receives Foreign Guests

President Kim Il Sung on February 21, 22 and 24 received the new Rwandan Ambassador, the delegation of the Italian Communist Party and the new Congolese Ambassador respectively.

ICP Del.

President Kim Il Sung February 22 received the delegation of the Italian Communist Party.

Present on the occasion were the members of the delegation headed by Pietro Ingrao, Member of the Directorate of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party and President of the Centre of Study for the Reformation of the State.

Also present were Kim Yong Nam, Member of the Political Committee, and Secretary, of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and Kim Yong Sun, Alternate Member and Vice-Director of a Department, of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

President Kim Il Sung had a talk with the guests in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

The delegation presented a gift to President Kim Il Sung in the name of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party.

President Kim Il Sung on February 22 received the delegation of the Italian Communist Party. (KCNA Radiophoto)

Rwandan Ambassador

President Kim Il Sung on February 21 received credentials from Kamali Sylvestre, new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Rwanda to the country.

Present at the presentation ceremony were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Ho Dam and an official of the Rwandan Embassy in Pyongyang.

After receiving the credentials President Kim Il Sung had a conversation with the ambassador.

Congolese Ambassador

Albert Matoko, newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of the Congo to the DPRK, on Feb. 24 presented the credentials to President Kim Il Sung.

Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Ho Dam and an official of the Congolese Embassy were present at the presentation ceremony.

President Kim Il Sung had a talk with the ambassador after receiving the credentials.

Korean, Italian Parties Denounce Return to Cold War

Joint information on the visit of the delegation of the Italian Communist Party to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was made public in Pyongyang on February 23, according to KCNA. It said:

A delegation of the Italian Communist Party with Comrade Pietro Ingrao, Member of the Directorate of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party and President of the Centre of Study for the Reformation of the State, as its head and Comrade Paolo Ciofi, Member of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party and Vice-Chairman of the Lazio Regional Administration Committee of Italy, and Comrade Renzo Foa, editor-in-chief of "L'Unita," organ of the Central Committee of the ICP, as its members paid a visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over February 18-23, 1980, at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

During its stay in Korea the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, received and had a conversation with the delegation in an amicable atmosphere.

The ICP delegation conveyed the fraternal greetings and wishes of Comrade Enrico Berlinguer, General Secretary of the ICP, to Comrade President Kim Il Sung who is leading the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, enjoying great authority.

Talks were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and friendship between the delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea which was headed by Comrade Kim Yong Nam, Member of the Political Committee, and Secretary, of the Central Committee of the WPK, and consisted of Comrade Kim Yong Sun, Alternate Member, and Vice-Director of a Department, of the Central Committee of the WPK, and other personages concerned, and the delegation of the Italian Communist Party.

Highly appreciating the fact that the Korean people under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung have laid the solid foundation of an independent national economy in a short span of time and registered important successes in socialist construction, the ICP heartily wished them new successes in carrying out the Second Seven-Year Plan.

Considering that the realisation of the policy for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country put forward by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea accords with the interests of the peace-loving forces of the world and all the progressive forces, the ICP delegation supported the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea opposing the division of the country and striving to achieve the reunification independently and peacefully without foreign interference through a wide-range dialogue between the political and social forces of the north and the south.

The ICP delegation stressed the positive role played by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today to accentuate the importance and characteristics of the non-aligned movement as never before and to cement its unity and the importance of this role.

The WPK delegation appraised the struggle waged by the Italian communists jointly with other democratic forces in defence of the interests and gains of the working class and working masses and the defence and development of democracy.

The WPK delegation positively estimated the activities conducted by the Italian Communist Party to lay a legitimate and firm basis for peace, struggle against hunger, poverty and backwardness in the third world and develop the working-class movement in Europe in this direction.

The two delegations paid attention to the aggravation of the international situation in which the manoeuvres of the imperialists and turn toward the cold war are intensified, the perilous tendencies toward the action of strength manifest themselves and the tension and the danger to peace are becoming more acute.

To counter the aggravation of the international situation, the two sides stressed the need to safeguard peace, smash the aggressive manoeuvres of the imperialists, check their arms race and nuclear armament and have the disputes settled by means of negotiations between the parties concerned.

Pyongyang Proposes to Hold Premiers Talks at Panmunjom

—At 3rd Working-Level Contact—

PANMUNJOM, Mar. 4 (KCNA) —The third contact between working-level delegates was held in the south side's portion of Panmunjom on Mar. 4 to make arrangements for a contact of the Premiers of the north and the south.

Attending the contact on the Pyongyang side were chief delegate Hyon Jun Guk, Vice-Director of a Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and Councillor of the Administration Council, and two other delegates.

The discussion on the questions of the venue and agenda of the Premiers' contact continued at today's contact.

Hyon Jun Guk, chief delegate of the Pyongyang side, spoke at the contact.

Expressing regret at the Seoul side's insistence on having the Premiers' contact in a third country, he said:

In proposing to have the Premiers' contact in Pyongyang and Seoul, we proceed, to all intents and purposes, from the desire to choose the best place most convenient and most reasonable to both sides, while upholding national dignity, and thus bring a good fruition to the Premiers' contact and greater joy to the compatriots.

And, we think, it should practically be taken into consideration that such high-ranking personnel as Premiers would have to make frequent trips abroad, if a third country were designated as the venue of the Premiers' contact, as the contact would not end with one or two rounds.

Pointing to talk of the south side about "quiet circumstances" and "effectiveness" of the meeting, he said that, as for the circumstances, our own land is most suitable and the circumstances of an alien land cannot be more suitable, and it is illogical to argue that the homeland causes disquietness, whereas a third country is quiet.

And, as for the "effectiveness" of the meeting, it would be effective and productive to hold it in our own country provided with everything suited to our actual conditions. It could not be "effective" and "productive" to hold it in an alien land tens of thousands of miles away, he said.

Touching upon the argument of the the south side that no success of the meeting could be expected, if it were held in Seoul and Pyongyang, allegedly in view of the "experiences of the past days," he stated that we could not agree to it.

He pointed out:

The talks in the past was fruitless and unsuccessful, not because of the venue, but because other factors worked to throw a cold blanket over the dialogue.

Recalling that the south side itself had declared at the previous contact that there was no reason hindering a contact in Pyongyang and Seoul, he repeatedly urged the south side to agree to our proposal to choose Pyongyang and Seoul as the venue of the Premiers' contact.

The chief delegate of the Pyongyang side added that if the Seoul side would accept Pyongyang's proposal to have the contact in Pyongyang for the time being, it being impossible to have it in Seoul for unavoidable circumstances, and then hold it alternately in Pyongyang and Seoul when the circumstances permitted, we would welcome this either.

Then chief delegate of the Pyongyang side Hyon Jun Guk spoke of the agenda question.

He made it clear once again, as already declared at the previous contact, that we were against deciding here upon a definite agenda of the Premiers' contact and that there was no need to argue about this question at the contact between the working-level delegates.

He noted: We may say that this question was actually solved and an understanding was reached through the letters exchanged between the Premiers of the two sides. To insist on defining the agenda of the Premiers' contact now is to bring back the work already started to its introductory stage, to which we cannot agree.

Pointing to the argument of the south side that it is a common usage to define the agenda in advance, he clarified that facts were quite contrary.

The precedent indicates, he said, that in case of a high-level contact, moreover, in case of an individual high-level contact between two sides, it is a usage freely to exchange views on questions of common concern, without specified formal agenda.

He pointed out:

At the previous contact the south side also said that an agenda might be or not be decided upon at talks and that, even if an agenda were defined at the contact between the working-level delegates, the Premiers might change it.

If the south side admitted that a contact could be held without a definite agenda, there would be no reason to argue for deciding upon it, delaying the Premiers' contact. And if a defined agenda could be changed in the future, there would be no reason to insist on defining it here, even wasting time.

He proposed to the south side to argue no longer about the agenda question which could not be an obstacle or a problem in the meeting of the Premiers.

But, today, the south side persisted in choosing a third country as the venue of the Premiers' contact and deciding upon the agenda beforehand.

Proceeding from a sincere stand to tide over difficulty that cropped up before the contact between working-level delegates due to such stand of the south side and promote the contact and arrange Premiers' contact at the earliest date possible, the chief delegate of the Pyongyang side put forward the following signal proposals:

Firstly, to designate Panmunjom as the venue of the contact between the Premiers of the north and the south.

Secondly, to hold the Premiers' contact alternately at the Panmungak Pavilion and the "House of Freedom" in Panmunjom.

Thirdly, to hold the first contact of the Premiers at the Panmungak Pavilion in Panmunjom.

Fourthly, after the first-stage contact in Panmunjom, the Premiers' contact may be held in Pyongyang and Seoul by agreement between the two sides.

Stating that we were willing to take note of and study the proposal of the south side to define the agenda of the Premiers' contact beforehand, he told the south side to produce its proposal, as it wanted to have it defined.

But, the south side failed to put forth any proposal today, though it had declared at the last contact that it would produce its concrete proposal on the agenda of the Premiers' contact, if we agreed to defining it.

In this connection, the chief delegate of the Pyongyang side pointed out that such stand of the Seoul side showed its attitude not to bear responsibility even for what it said and hoped that the Seoul side would approach the future discussion of the questions with sincerity.

The two sides agreed to have the next contact of working-level delegates on March 18 at the Panmungak Pavilion in Panmunjom.

After today's contact, the chief delegate of the Pyongyang side was interviewed by home and foreign reporters at Panmunjom.

"SR-71" Plane Intruded Into DPRK Air

The "SR-71" high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance plane of the U.S. getting more frantic with military exercise for another war against the northern half of the Republic intruded deep into the sky above the territorial waters east of Kosong of the DPRK and flew northward within the military boundary east of Sosura, North Hamgyong Province, from 13 hours 16 minutes to 25 minutes on February 27 and then flew southward along the same course from 14 hours 57 minutes to 15 hours 4 minutes, committing a hostile espionage, KCNA reported.

Such acts of military espionage committed by the U.S. after January 11 alone numbered 23.

The Americans are ceaselessly committing espionage acts these days, while staging in south Korea large-scale military exercises one after another against the northern half of the DPRK at a time when the desire of the Korean people for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country is growing stronger. It is clear that these acts are planned moves to lay artificial difficulties to the north-south dialogue, bar its progress and obstruct the peaceful solution of the reunification question by deliberately aggravating the situation of the country.

This is also an open challenge and an outright perfidy to the entire Korean people and the world peace-loving people who unanimously desire peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification.

The United States must ponder over the grave consequences which may be entailed by such acts it is committing and put an immediate end to all the provocative acts creating artificial difficulties to the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Korean Weight-Lifter Establishes New World Record

People's Sportsman Han Gyong Si, a weight-lifter of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, rewrote a world record at the 9th International Weight-Lifting Tournament for the "Blue Swords Cup" in the German Democratic Republic on February 23, according to a report from Berlin.

He snatched 111.5 kilogrammes in flyweight category. With this he bettered by 0.5 kilogrammes his own world record set at the 7th Summer People's Spartakiad of the Soviet Union in July last year.

In the jerk he lifted 135 kilogrammes to come off the winner in the flyweight event.

Korean weight-lifter Yang Ui Yong lifted 245.0(105—140) kilogrammes in the snatch and jerk to take the lead in bantam.

Another flyweighter Im Jong Gwan took second place with 235 kilogrammes in the snatch and jerk.

HAN KY S SI
PRK
105.0

Han Gyong Si

Civil Rights Restored to 684 S. Koreans; 15,000 Political Offenders Still in Prison

The south Korean government on February 29 announced the restoration of civil rights to 684 persons.

The action, effective as from 12 a.m. on March 1 (Independence Movement Day), meant that 687 former prisoners are now legally permitted to resume political activities despite their past conviction for anti-government acts.

Of the 684, 22 are politicians, 373 college students, 42 Christian leaders, 24 college professors, 9 journalists, 80 soldiers and 134 others.

Notables included in the list are former opposition "presidential" candidate Kim Dae Jung, 54, former "president" Yun Po Son, 82 and civic leader Ham Sok Hon, 78.

Also included in the list were Chon Il Hyong, former member of the New Democratic Party and his wife Li Tae Yong, lawyer; Mun Dong Hwan and Mun Ik Hwan, former professors at Hanguk Theological College; Ham Se Ung, pastor and Kim Dong Gil, former professor at Yonse University.

These people were convicted under the slain dictator Pak Jung Hi's emergency decrees or were charged with and found guilty of violation of the "anti-communist law."

However, the restoration failed to cover many other political prisoners (estimated at 15,000) including Kim Ji Ha who was sentenced to a 20-year prison term on charges of violating the "anti-communist law."

Kim Dae Jung on Feb. 29 told news men on the restoration of civil rights as follows:

"It is regrettable that the measure was taken so late and was applied to a part of the political prisoners and I hope all the political prisoners will be released in near future."

Western observers take the view that the restoration of the civil rights of prisoners is aimed at dividing the opposition forces to help the ruling party to win in the scheduled "presidential" election.

KOREA FOCUS

Dividing Two Kims

Civil rights were restored to some of political offenders, which the Choi Gyu Ha regime called a step for "national reconciliation" and "a benefit granted by the government." It is ridiculous.

As assassin Kim Jae Gyu, ex-KCIA director, admitted, the slaying of Pak Jung Hi was neither a murder carried out at the spur of the moment nor an accidental incident. The assassination of the strong man was an inevitable result from the sharpening contradictions within the ruling quarters as dramatized by the Pusan-Masan affair, a climax of the popular resistance to the 18 years of the misrule by Pak Jung Hi. Thus, in the post-Pak period, national consensus is on the denial of yusin and democratic development. Of course, a certain force remains committed to the continuation of yusin politics. The military are bent on preventing or delaying democratic development by using martial law on the pretext of "preserving law and order." Brass-hats openly claim, "Government cannot be entrusted with personalities like Kim Dae Jung. The military are openly cracking down on the democratic forces. Most of the Choi regime executives are those who actively cooperated with the Pak junta in dictatorship. Despite its promise to remain "neutral" and "provisional," the Choi regime stands by the side of those planning to continue yusin.

The Opposition parties and the democratic forces relentlessly press for the abolition of yusin, the lifting of martial law and democratic reforms. Faced with such public demands, the Choi regime reluctantly lifted emergency decrees on December 18 last, with those detained under them being released at last. Then, house confinement was stopped of Kim Dae Jung. Till recently, the released persons were still deprived of their civil rights, a step aimed at silencing the political activities of Yun Po Son, Kim Dae Jung and other democratic leaders. Lifting emergency decrees and restoring freedom of person but restricting free political activities are self-contradictory. The mounting struggle of the people finally forced the ruling authorities to restore civil rights to the democratic leaders.

Notwithstanding this, the ruling quarters are making most of the restoration of civil rights for the continuation of yusin. They are trying to give an impression that they are forward-looking concerning democratic development, a trick to divide and weaken the democratic forces.

No clear standard has been set in determining a list of candidates whose civil rights are to be restored. Lifting emergency decrees amount to a denial of yusin, making rehabilitation of the political detainees inevitable and logical. Therefore, all the political prisoners must be rehabilitated unconditionally. Actual rehabilitation proved to be selective as far as those convicted under emergency decrees No. 1 and No. 4, the anti-communist law and the national security law are concerned, but for those under emergency decree No. 9. For example, Profs. Paek Ryang Chong and Li Yong Hui, convicted under the anti-communist law, were rehabilitated, but a poet Kim Ji Ha, found guilty under the same law, remains yet to be reinstated. Some of the persons involved in the case of the National Federation of Students and Youth for Democracy and the assassination of Pak Jung Hi were reinstated but some others excluded the latest amnesty. The charge against the resistance poet as brought under the anti-communist law is based on a written draft for his poem. It is silly to brand an uncompleted draft poem as a violation of law. The content of the draft is motivated by a Catholic belief, alien to Communism. This can be cited as evidence of the selective approach on the part of the ruling quarters for political purposes.

The rehabilitation of Kim Dae Jung and some particular dissidents is a clear attempt to divide the democratic forces. It is a traditional policy of the ruling camp to employ such divide-and-rule tactics. In other words, while cultivating the Opposition parties, the ruling camp has been striving to keep the democratic dissident forces at a distance. The latest rehabilitation order represents such crafty tactical move. The move is intended to pit Kim Dae Jung against Kim Yong Sam in the drive for a new presidency, namely, to prevent the opposition forces to put up a joint presidential candidate. As it turned out, a March 3 mass rally in Seoul, under the sponsorship of the New Democratic Party, became a scene of a bad brawl between the supporters of Kim Yong Sam and those of Kim Dae Jung.

All indications, however, are that such policy of the ruling camp is certain to misfire. The democratic dissident forces are well aware of the motive of the ruling circles. Yun Po Son and senior leaders will intervene to split a potential gap between the two Kims. Their mediation will likely prove constructive. Agreement has already been reached on the urgent need to preserve unity in the democratic movement. The democratic forces are now capable of preserving it.

Comparing North and South : Agriculture

◇ ◇

Today, agriculture in the north and the south shows a clear contrast. The DPRK was once considered unfit for farming because of its mountainous terrain and inclement weather conditions while south Korea once produced 70-90% of rice output of Korea before liberation.

After 1945, the DPRK successfully overcame topographical disadvantages and it managed to have surplus food production.

Irrigation was completed in 1960, and electification of all the rurals was completed during the Seven-Year Plan period (1961-1970). Seven to eight tractors per 100 hectars are in use nationwide: mechinization and chemicalization as well are near completion.

Moreover, the farmers in the DPRK know no anxiety about their living as they are provided with tile-roof houses, clothing, food and other things by the state. Hospitals and clinics are built in every county and every cooperative farm. The state purchases rice and other agricultural products from the farmers at prices ten times those sold to the consumers.

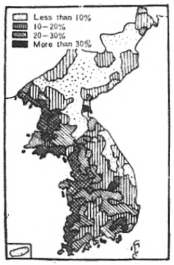
On the other hand, south Korean agriculture is in shambles. South Korea is now a major grain importer. Agriculture has been sacrificed to the so-called export-oriented high growth policy.

Exodus from rural areas to the cities has been continuing. The ratio of farmers in the population of the nation is: 49.9% in 1970, 33.8% in 1978 and 30% in 1979, according to the Seoul Kyongjae Sinmun dated on January 15, 1980. Only old men and women are left with farming.

Follows a comparison of agriculture in the north and the south:

◇ ◇

	North	South
Population	17,580,000	37,760,000
Farmland	2,036,000 ha. In 1960 farmland was 800,000 ha. It expanded 2.5 times during past 20 years.	2,310,000 ha. 1975 2,238,000 ha. 1977 2,231,000 ha. (Korean Economic Yearbook,1979)
Mean air temperature	4C° - 10C°	10C° - 14C°
Mean precipitation	500mm - 700mm	700mm - 1,000mm
Output	1976 8 mil. tons 1977 8.5 mil. tons 1979 9 mil. tons	1976 8.2 mil. tons 1977 8.005 mil. tons 1978 8.28 mil. tons
Form of farming	Cooperative agriculture	Private agriculture 30% of farming households are tenants (The Choson Ilbo, Jan.6,1980)
Irrigation	Irrigation of all the farmland was completed in 1960 by the state.	86.2% of the farmland was irrigated in 1978, but farmers had to pay charges.
Mechanization	Farming processes are mostly done by machines.	Most of planting, plowing, weeding and harvesting are manual labor.
Food imports	No	60.1% of foods locally produced in 1979. (The Hyondae Kyonjae Sinmun, Feb. 13, 1980) This year grain imports will reach about $ 1.2 bil. (ditto, Feb. 12, 1980)
Stock breeding	Meat, eggs, milk and other livestock products are all domestically produced.	Large quatities of meat was imported from Australia and New Zealand. Most feed is imported. (Korea Annual, 1979)
Desertion from countryside	No	In 1978,781,000 farmers left the countryside for cities. Of the farming population, 97% is willing to leave the countryside.



RATIO OF FARMLAND

The all paddy- and non-paddy fields in the DPRK are well irrigated. Seven to eight tractors operate per 100 hectares. The farmers know no anxiety about their living as theirs' is a highpaying job.

Food shortage is one of the serious economic problems of south Korea. The reason is a sharp decline of agricilture, a result of the so-called economic high growth policy. Many farms in south Korea are not irrigated and are still cultivated by out-of-date farming tools.

For Freedom and Liberation

(6)

Commander Is Also Son of People

— By O Baek Ryong —

Rest in Cold Courtyard

It was an early spring day in 1933, but the cold of winter had not gone and the Tuman River was still ice-bound.

Under the personal command of Comrade Kim Il Sung, we guerillas had stopped for a brief rest in front of a peasant's house near Liangshuichuantzu, on the bank of the river.

We knocked on the door several times, but no one appeared although there were some signs of life inside the house.

It was very cold and we had a wounded man with us, but no one tried to force an entry.

We put down our things and decided to rest in the courtyard. It was biting cold but we were still sweating from the march, and we were looking for some kind of shelter, and of course we wanted to take our wounded comrade into the house. But the strict instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung were in our minds, "You must be truly an army that serves the people."

Comrade Kim Il Sung took off his overcoat and put it over the wounded man, and said: "We can overcome the cold by doing some physical exercise. It's better than sitting about doing nothing." He picked up an axe and went into the centre of the courtyard to chop firewood. We all followed suit, some clearing snow from around the house, some fetching water from the well, while others got some wood and built a fire in the open to cook food as we had done in the mountains.

We learned later why the people had shut themselves in. They had never met nor seen the anti-Japanese guerillas, and mistook us for Japanese troops.

But the man and his wife were surprised to see through a hole in the papered window that we were clearing the snow and resting in the courtyard. Not a single straw was taken away from the heap in the courtyard. The guerillas had used wood they had gathered themselves for the fire. What struck the family most was the warm comradeship evident among the guerillas. They saw one of us take off his overcoat to put it over the wounded man, and the tender care shown him.

"They don't look like the Japanese army."

"I wonder who they are... I've never seen troops like that before. Surely they are not Japanese!"

"What should we do?"

They hesitated. But at that moment their baby woke up and started to cry. At last the door was flung open and the man came outside.

As Member of Family

When he learned who we were he felt ashamed for hiding, but now he opened his heart. Calling to his wife to boil water, he took us inside. He offered us corn from his meagre supplies, and dried leaves of radish and cabbage hanging from the eaves. But thanking him, we declined.

"Grandpa," Comrade Kim Il Sung called him, and gave him a cigarette. He enquired kindly about his family, and why, having long been farmers, they did not raise chickens; why the children were all without fur caps in the cold season and so on. With a deep sigh the old man said that he was fated to be poor.

As though he were a member of the family, Comrade Kim Il Sung talked about the old man's life and poverty. In plain words he said that it was not fate but the inhumane two-fold and three-fold exploitation and plunder of Japanese imperialism, the Manchurian warlords and feudal landlords that had brought the Korean and Chinese people to such depths of poverty, and that to put up a struggle against Japanese imperialism was the only way for the two peoples to be able to lead a good life.

Deeply moved, the old man, his tear-filled eyes opened to the cause of the privations of all the people including himself, said he too wanted to join the guerilla.

After resting, the General gave the old man some money and said, "It seems that Grandma too has little to wear except these tatters. Here is a little money. Take it. Buy yourself some fowls and breed them so that you can feed your children on chicken."

When he learned who the man was who had treated him with such kindness, that it was General Kim Il Sung himself, who was held in such respect by us all like a real father, the old man, with tears in his eyes, said: "The Commander is a great man, but he chops firewood like anyone."

Comrade Kim Il Sung smiled and said:

"The commander is also a son of the people. There is no reason why I shouldn't do the things that others do. One feels real joy in life and has a good appetite when one works."

The old man grasped his hands and begged:

"It's cold today. Won't you spend this night here at my home? I want even one night. I didn't know there was such an army as yours anywhere. You've given me fresh strength."

(Subtitles are ours....Ed.)

1st Quarterly Assignments Fulfilled

The Korean working people are now effecting a great upsurge in production and construction to greet the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea with high political enthusiasm and shining achievements.

Reports about the pre-schedule fulfilment of the plans for the first quarter of the year are coming in succession from factories and enterprises in various domains of the national economy, according to KCNA.

More than 70 enterprises in fisheries including the Chongjin, Yanghwa, Tanchon and Ryongdae fisheries stations have hit their first quarterly targets.

The North Hamgyong and Kangwon provincial fisheries administrations carried out their plans for the first quarter of the year through active fishing operations.

The Kumya Youth Coal Mine, the Pyongyang Nonferrous Metal Factory, the Pyongyang Silk Mill, the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory and the Mangyongdae Knitwear Mill beat their first quarterly targets more than one month and a half ahead of schedule through an energetic increased production drive from the beginning of the year.

The Sariwon Youth, Haeju Youth, Sunchon and many other railway stations also have announced the fulfilment of their first quarterly transport quotas. Particularly, the Kanri, Chunghwa, Songrim Youth and Hakhyon railway stations have carried out their daily assignments at 180 percent by mechanizing the loading and unloading operations and meticulously organising railroad schedule.

The fulfilment of the first quarterly plans have also been reported by 35 local industrial factories in North Pyongan Province and a number of local industrial factories in other provinces.

Multilateral Interchange Activated

Pyongyang favors activated multilateral interchange and cooperation between the northern and southern halves as a step toward creating a climate of better understanding for the eventual reunification of the country. President Kim Il Sung stated: "Now we maintain that many-sided cooperation and interchange between north and south should be accomplished in the political, military, diplomatic, economic and cultural fields in order to improve north-south relations and expedite the country's reunification." "Many sided cooperation and interchange are of tremendous importance in rejoining the severed bonds of the nation and providing preconditions for reunification. Only when such cooperation and interchange are realized, will it be possible to consolidate the peace agreement to be concluded between north and south."

OBJECTIVES

In the international community, cooperation and interchange between states or regional blocks of states are aimed at taking concerted action or fulfilling each other's needs and consolidating each other's status for their coexistance. Yet, the proposed north-south cooperation and interchange are totally different from those and are intended to lessen and finally eliminate mutual distrust and misunderstanding between north and south, to rejoin the severed national ties, achieve national reconciliation, bring about national prosperity and add lustre to the honor of the Korean nation. Activated cooperation and interchange are certain to bring down the barriers of over 30 years between north and south and restore national unity to the Korean people.

In the final analysis, such projects must ultimately involve broader political forces, groupings, public organizations, individuals and those abroad, be they political, economic, cultural and military. If people are allowed to move freely between north and south and undertake extensive interchange and cooperation, they will be able to have first-hand knowledge of the other side and have respect for each other's thinking and stand as the same Koreans.

A particular mention must be made of a strong possibility that the south Korean people will improve their perception of the northern half, realize their distorted views and understanding. In other words, they will know that the north poses no threat to the south and has no intention whatsoever to communize it. What they will see is the preservation and development of the Korean cultural heritage in the north and the strong commitment to the improvement of the people's living standards: a viable Korean socialism.

A future peace agreement between north and south will be strengthened with activation of many-sided cooperation and interchange, as the lack of mutual trust and understanding is a key factor behind the arms race and the military buildup. National reconciliation resulting from such cooperation and exchange will reduce and remove the reason for such unnecessary arms race and serve to reinforce the peace agreement, thereby helping prevent the recurrence of hostilities. Any particular foreign power, if resolved to intervene, will face immediate Korean and worldwide condemnation and will have to give up its interventionist behaviour.

The south Korean economy, currently dependent heavily on foreign capital, technology and raw materials, will stand to benefit much from north-south interchange and cooperation. On the principle of making most of the domestic resources, the south Koreans will have access to what the north has: funds, technology and inexhaustible underground resources. They will be able to improve their economic performance by reducing imports but using economic interchange with the northerners.

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS

As President Kim Il Sung put it, "If the north and south economically work together and conduct interchange it will be possible to rapidly improve the economic situation of south Korea by utilizing the developed heavy industry and rich underground resources in the northern half of the Republic and it will greatly benefit the people in both parts of Korea. Sportsmen and artists may visit the north and south having sports games and giving art performances, and form single north-south teams and single art troupes to participate in international sports competition and international art festivals. Journalists may also freely travel for news coverage; and it will be possible to set up press centres or newspaper bureaus in Pyongyang and Seoul and exchange newspapers and journals between the north and south." Such north-south interchange will produce a powerful and prosperous unified Korea.

For the moment, economic cooperation and exchange will be undertaken with foreign troops stationed in south Korea, though such process will prove the absence of any threat from north. Deepened and expanded economic interchange will provide a compelling reason for the foreign forces to be withdrawn from south Korea. As a matter of common knowledge, the south Korean economy is in a vicious circle of chronic trade deficits, runaway inflation, snowballing foreign debts and the ever-rising unemployment. The south Koreans are now seeking for large infusions of international loans to bale their economy out of a grave crisis. To feed the population, the south Korean authorities are importing large quantities of grain from the United States and other countries.

Pyongyang is ready and willing to offer to Seoul in economic cooperation and interchange:

—necessary working capital
—high technology suited for the Korean scene
—underground resources, ferrous and non-ferrous
—the purchase of south Korean goods
—the employment of the south Korean jobless people
—funds and technology needed for the rehabilitation of the south Korean agriculture
—grain
—access of the south Korean fishermen to the northern fishing grounds

To this end, Pyongyang is eager to form an economic committee composed of an equal number of representatives from north and south.

Pyongyang believes that brisk interchange is quite possible and needed in fields of culture, in particular because the Korean people have a brilliant cultural heritage dating back to several thousand years ago. Joint sports, art and cultural missions may be sent abroad. The northerners and southerners can exchange missions to improve the Korean cultural heritage. Concerted efforts may also be initiated to improve and develop the Korean language. Education and medicine as well may be explored for such joint projects as they are of vital importance to the future of the Korean nation.

POLITICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS

Political cooperation and interchange assume primary importance in multisided cooperation and exchange to be undertaken between north and south. An attitude toward political cooperation is a good measure of the commitment to aspects of cooperation and interchange and to the eventual reintegration of the divided country.

Political cooperation must be undertaken in the faithful implementation of the three principles of the July 4, 1972 north-south joint statement. In compliance with the first principle of independence, both Pyongyang and Seoul should jointly strive to have foreign factors removed from the Korean scene. Then, they should be guided by the second principle of a peaceful reunification. Thirdly, they should try to achieve north-south grand unity.

The erstwhile Red Cross talks and the north-south coordination commission were forms of political cooperation. Higher forms include broader-based political consultative conferences and grand national congress, forums where both sides will be able to have frank exchanges of views on matters of common concern, big and small, to the process of reunification. In this context, a proposed Premiers meeting will be a form of political cooperation. Political cooperation is a major guarantee of military, economic, and cultural cooperation.

Military cooperation must take a form of military deescalation. Objection to military cooperation means refusal to reduce tension and achieve national reconciliation, namely, opposition to the reunification of the country—the pursuit of the "two-Korea" policy. Genuine commitment to reunification must be accompanied by cooperation in military affairs. The north and south must take joint steps in safeguarding the sovereignty and security of the Korean nation as the Korean people have been subjected to all sorts of barbarous aggression by foreign powers at least in the past one hundred years.

As a substantial step toward military cooperation, the reduction of tension between the north and south must be brought about. To this end, the military authorities of Pyongyang and Seoul should have close working relationships to take concerted action in compliance with the north-south joint statement:

—to pledge non-aggression against each other
—to dutifully fulfil provisions of the armistice agreement on preventing armed conflicts
—to replace the present armistice commission with a north-south military commission
—to discontinue the arms race and arms buildup
—to reduce the troop strength to 100,000 men or less each
—to disengage troops from the DMZ

Diplomatic cooperation can be viewed as an important area. It will enhance the prestige and creditability of the Korean nation in the world community of nations as a single state and greatly contribute to the ultimate reestablishment of Korea as a unified state. There is no reason for the Koreans not to initiate diplomatic cooperation between north and south because they have tens of centuries of history as a single and homogeneous nation in the world.

The following will be open to joint diplomatic action:

—exchange of information on diplomatic affairs
—cooperation in fostering relations with those countries friendly to Korea
—concerted action to defend the sovereignty of the Korean nation
—joining the world organization and international agencies under the single title.

First Pumps Exhibited, Tested In Madagascar

An exhibition and all-round test operation of the first pumps produced at the Secren of Madagascar with technical cooperation of the DPRK were held with a large attendance in Antseranana of Madagascar on February 14.

A portrait of President Kim Il Sung and a portrait of Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka were placed on the platform of the meeting place.

The function was attended by the Chairman of the Antseranana City Executive Committee and the commandant of an army unit in the city, the Director General of the Secren and other personages concerned, more than 400 in all.

Also present were the DPRK ambassador to Madagascar and Korean technicians working in that country.

The Director General of the Secren and the DPRK ambassador addressed the function.

Then followed a successful all-round test operation of various types of irrigation pumps produced in Madagascar with cooperation of Korean technicians.

Closely watching the operation of the pumps, the attendants admired their high efficiency.

A letter to President Kim Il Sung was adopted at the function.

—Industrial Establishments—

Taean Electric Machine Plant

About 40 km from Pyongyang downstream along the Taedong River, there is the Taean Electric Machine Plant which is known as the birthplace of the Taean Work System.

The plant had been practically suspending production since the Korean War (1950-1953). In 1960, the new electric generator assembling workshop with a floor space of 30,000 square meters and the next year a motor production workshop (15,000 square meters) were newly built in the factory. From then, the plant started full-scale operation.

It produced a 5,000-kva hydraulic power generator in July 1960, an 8-meter planer (4.5 meters high, 17.5 meters long, 90 tons weigh) in May 1961 and in September, the same year it turned out a 6-meter turning lathe.

At that time, the workers of the factory achieved brilliant successes. President Kim Il Sung visited there in December 1961. After inspecting all parts of the factory, the President formulated a new work system, which is now called the Taean Work System, to enable the workers to participate in economic management more actively.

The new work system gave full play to its vitality in production at the factory. In the first 10 monthes of 1962, the year following the President's personal guidance, its production capacity grew 11.5 times in hydraulic power generator production; transformer production increased 90 percent; regulators 15 prrcent and electric locomotive production 15 percent against the comparable period of the previous year.

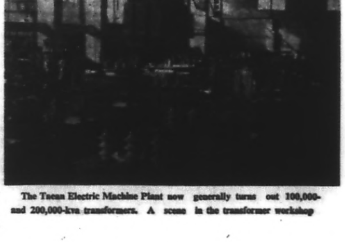
The workers succeeded in producing one after another a large-scale transformer (50,000 kva), 4,700- and 9,700-kva transformers in December that year. Thermal power generators for the Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant (10,000 kva) and 15,000-kva regulators were also produced by them.

The state gave the title "Chollima Plant" to the plant in April 1963 in appreciation of the workers' achievements.

From then on, the workers have fulfilled their tasks in the Six-Year Plan (1971-1975) and the Second Seven-Year Plan which started in 1978, and is now underway.

So far, the plant has introduced 23,320 original ideas into the production and one out of every 7 workers at the plant are now technicians or assistant technicians.

(To be continued)



The Taean Electric Machine Plant now generally turns out 100,000- and 200,000-kva transformers. A scene in the transformer workshop

What Is Purpose of "Amnesty"?

The south Korean authorities February 29 announced the restoration of the civil rights to 68þ persons.

The restoration covered 674 persons convicted under the late Pak Jung Hi's emergency decrees and 10 scholars and students charged with and found guilty of violation of the "anti-communist law."

The "government" action benefited 22 politicians, 373 college students, 42 Christian leaders, 24 college professors, 9 journalists, 80 soldiers and 134 others.

Notables included in the list are former "president" Yun Bo Son, 82, former opposition "presidential" candidate Kim Dae Jung, 54, civic leader Ham Sok Hon, 78, and many religious leaders.

Excluded from the list were dissident poet Kim Ji Ha, 39, and several former opposition lawmakers.

No Change in Seoul's Policy

In an interview, Kim Dae Jung Mar. 1 said that the most important thing was restoration of democratic government.

He added that the interim "government" should be aware that the public strongly desired a democratic constitution and wanted to see all political prisoners released and their civil rights restored. As many as 15,000 lost their civil rights for political reasons.

"We don't see any reason why martial law should be maintained," he said.

This proves that there is no change in the ulterior intentions of the Seoul authorities to keep people in chains and gag them completely.

The issue of the "amnesty decree" by Choe Gyu Ha doesn't mean any change in the "yusin" rule but reflects the pretty fix in which the Seoul officials find themselves, they are afraid of being elbowed out of the trends of the times while trying hard to maintain the "yusin" dictatorial system.

The "amnesty" step has been won as a result of the courageous struggle energetically waged by the south Korean people and particularly by youth and students to fight against the maintenance of the "yusin" system. It is a concession made by the Seoul officials to the repeated demand of the world's peace-loving countries and peoples, international bodies and organizations, which value the dignity and independence of man, a concession won under pressure brought to bear on the Seoul regime by them.

A strong demand was voiced with Pak's death that his "yusin" legacy should be disinherited at once—demands for the withdrawal of the "yusin constitution," adoption of a new democratic constitution, and release of all the political prisoners and freedom of political activity.

Nevertheless, the south Korean "caretaker government" schemes to continue Pak's fascist, undemocratic and anti-people policy without Pak, ignoring the voices of the people who strongly call for the restoration of democracy: the "martial law commander" praised the slain dictator.

South Korea's "martial law authorities" last Nov. 5 set "standards for press censorship" by putting all news reporting under strict control, and banned all political comments and views on the assassination of Pak Jung Hi, except for "official" statements on its.

South Korea's mass media neither call for the removal of the "yusin constitution" the people keenly desire nor carry any views of opposition parties or democrats demanding a new democratic system and direct election of a new "president."

The "martial law command" last Nov. 7 banned distribution of Japanese daily newspapers including English-language papers and business papers.

On Nov. 15, last year, the "martial law authorities" detained Li Byong Ju, Chairman of the Tong-A Ilbo Struggle Committee for the Protection of Freedom of the Press, its member Li Bu Yong and Choson Ilbo Struggle Committee Chairman Chong Tae Gi.

The three on Nov. 13 last year made public a joint statement at the house of former "president" Yun Bo Son, expressing opposition to the "special statement" of the acting "president" and calling for an end to the "yusin constitution," emergency decrees and other evil laws.

On Dec. 6 last year an indirect "presidential" election was carried out by the "National Conference for Unification," a rubber-stamp electoral college.

On Dec. 21 Choe Gyu Ha was sworn in as the successor of the slain dictator.

There is no change in the policies of the south Korean authorities even after Pak's death.

Kim Dae Jung and NDP president Kim Yong Sam are all smiles when they met after a Seoul's move to reinstate the former's civil rights was announced on February 29.

Unabated Democratic Struggle

The democratic dissidents toughened their posture. Choe's resignation was demanded and the U.S. was denounced for continuing to support the anti-popular "government."

A series of statements were made public by dissident groups including opposition parties. Students and journalists who had kept silent since Pak's assassination rose to demand campus democracy and freedom of speech as well as abolition of the "yusin constitution."

Strong protest action was launched Nov. 24. That day, about 1,000 anti-Establishment people gathered at the YWCA building in Myong-dong, Seoul, where anti-"government" rally—billed as a "wedding"—was held under "martial law". The rally was attended by key figures of the dissident movements. A strong-worded manifesto was read which demanded replacement of the ruling circles with a democratic system. Protesters took to the streets and clashed with the police. This anti-Establishment action triggered a chain reaction. Over 3,000 students and citizens in Kwangju, South Cholla Province, followed the Nov. 24 dissenters. On Nov. 29, 1,000 Seoul Univ. students, 500 Koryo collegians and 2,000 students of Chonnam Univ. rose in a struggle on Nov. 27 and 30.

South Korea's democratic struggles have recorded an impressive advance against the "yusin" regime of Choe Gyu Ha. They are confident that their long-protracted struggle has created a good opportunity to terminate the notorious "yusin" regime. They are closing their ranks in a rare show of unity.

The masses of people who kicked off the Pusan and Masan affairs against the Pak "yusin" regime, are still active in their vigorous struggles against the present "yusin" regime supporters.

Choe Gyu Ha officials issued the "amnesty decree" in order to prevent the struggle of the people for democracy and freedom from gaining in strength.

All the illegal penalties inflicted upon patriotic people and democratic figures under the "emergency decrees" and other evil laws must be withdrawn and all the prisoners be released and freedom of speech, the press, assembly, association and demonstration and the freedom of political activities of the political parties, public organizations and individuals be guaranteed.

This is possible only when an end is put to the "yusin" system and a new democratic political government established.

EDITORIAL

Has Spring Come to Seoul?

The Seoul authorities on February 29 issued an "amnesty decree" which restore civil rights to 687 people, including one-time opposition "presidential" candidate Kim Dae Jung.

Besides the former opposition "presidential" candidate, prominent among those who benefited by the measure were former "president" Yun Bo Son, Catholic bishop Chi Hak Sun, former lawmaker Chong Il Hyong, his wife Dr. Li Tae Yong, and many dissident Christian pastors and professors.

Except for 10 persons, those affected by the measure were politicians and other dissidents who were stripped of their civil rights following conviction under three emergency decrees issued by Pak Jung Hi in 1974 and 1975 to ban political dissent.

Kim Dae Jung was spirited home from Japan in 1973 in a kidnap engineered by the "KCIA" agents under the personal instruction of Pak Jung Hi.

He served nearly three years in prison for criticizing Pak's authoritarian rule in 1976, and was under house arrest until last December.

All political prisoners convicted under the emergency decrees were freed shortly after Pak was killed by his intelligence chief last October 26, but there are still an unknown number of political prisoners held for violating the "anti-communist law."

Among them is internationally-known dissident poet Kim Ji Ha, who is serving a 20-year term convicted under the "anti-communist law" and emergency decree No. 9.

The suppressive "anti-communist law" and "national security law" are still effective in south Korea with civil rights restored to 684 political prisoners. The "martial law" has been left as it is since it was clamped last October on the whole of south Korea.

Amnesty was granted to political prisoners who were forfeited of their civil rights on charges of violating the emergency decrees but not to most of political prisoners including Kim Ji Ha and Japan-resident compatriots So brothers convicted under the "anti-communist law" and "national security law." This means that "spring has not come yet in Seoul".

What is the attempt of the Seoul officials who restored civil rights to a large number of political prisoners? Choe Gyu Ha said in a statement that he had taken the measure to "provide the basis for national reconciliation and enable the people to join equally in the ranks for national development."

"To provide the basis for national reconciliation" indicates the outline of "democratization" project worked out by the Seoul officials. This means that the reinstated persons are urged to row in the same boat with the Seoul officials in the "ranks for national development."

In other words, the present officials are keen on maintaining political security under the "yusin" system by repealing only "emergency decree".

The Seoul authorities are scheming to subdue the vigorous struggle of the south Korean people demanding the restoration of democracy, describing the people's struggle as a "state of overheated politics".

Choe Gyu Ha on February 22 made a speech at the newly-established Advisory Council on State Affairs. He stressed that the overheated political state might confuse social security and order. "If public opinion is divided, the development can not be expected in terms of politics and economy, the state and people will face the danger of destruction," he said.

The editorial of the south Korean vernacular daily "Hanguk Ilbo" dated February 24 said "'yusin' constitution is still effective.... There are a large number of democratic fighters still held in prison. This makes the south Korean people be fearful of the democratic development in the country."

More south Korean people take active part in the vigorous struggle for total restoration of democracy, the repeal of evil laws such as "anti-communist law" and "national security law" and the end to "yusin" system.

The present officials are propagandizing the fictitious "threat of southward invasion from the north" in order to put out the anti-"government" campaign.

The Seoul authorities should immediately withdraw the "martial law" clamped down on the whole of south Korea and abolish all evil laws which crack down on the freedom and democracy of the people.

Widening Division in Ruling Party

Rim Ho, "national assemblyman" of the ruling Democratic Republican Party (DRP) on Feb. 2 issued a statement demanding the resignation of the DRP president Kim Jong Pil, a candidate for the presidential election slated for next spring. This statement is likely to increase the division in the party. At the end of last year, 17 young "national assemblymen" launched a rectification campaign in the party in order to expel the degenerated fellows who amassed huge wealth by abusing their office and blindly follow the Establishment.

Significantly, the statement came when party president Kim Jong Pil was making efforts to ease aggravated infighting in the party, appealing for "iron-like cohesion in the party." An attention should be paid to how many party members take part in the anti-party rectification campaign in support for the February statement and what specific steps party executive members take to repress the rectification campaign.

In his statement, Rim Ho pointed out following points: Kim Jong Pil was the founder of "intelligence politics" and the "KCIA," served as a premier under the yusin system and amassed fabulous wealth as a big landlord. He insisted that "president" Kim Jong Pil should retire voluntarily in order to advance the "rectification campaign."

This is the first time that Kim Jong Pil was criticized by a member of his party. Now he is leaving no stone unturned to gain more supporters before the presidential election.

The south Korean vernacular dailies described the movement as an infighting in the ruling party or a challenge to the party executives.

As a matter of fact, Kim Jong Pil is most fearful of the rectification campaign in the party.

The rectification campaign started at the end of last year when 17 young "national assemblymen" of the party including Pak Chan Jong and O Yu Bang called for the purge of 15-strong executives of the party who illegally accumulated fabulous wealth under Pak's "yusin" rule. Since the beginning of this year, the campaign is involving even leading "national assemblymen" and young members of the party.

This campaign was initiated by the party members feeling that the DRP is certain to face a defeat in the next presidential election because the people don't give support to the party which is completely controlled by the degenerated fellows who committed irregularities under Pak's "yusin" rule.

The February issue of a Japanese vernacular magazine "Sentaku" carried an article titled "Does Kim Jong Pil Win the Presidential Election"—which disclosed how much money Kim Jong Pil illegally amassed.

According to the research institute of the Asahi Shimbun Company, Kim Jong Pil, donating some of his wealth to the Seoul authorities in spring of 1974, has a large meadow in Sosan, South Chungchong Province and a vast orange orchard in Cheju Island.

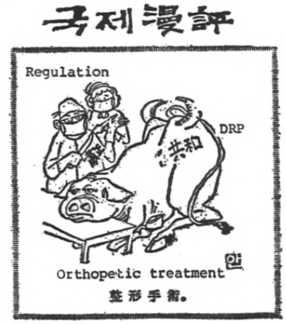
Over 2,000 head of imported cattle are pastured in his meadow. Kim Jong Pil is being rejected as a candidate for the presidential election because he hoarded his fortunes by abusing his office. His illegally-accumulated assets allegedly reach 100 billion won.

The DRP president asked young "national assemblymen" at the last Dec. 26 general meeting of the "national assemblymen" of the party to call off the party rectification campaign, promising them to incorporate their opinion into the projected party reforms.

On Jan. 30, Kim Jong Pil warned the party members against advancing the rectification campaign, saying that it is dangerous to reform the party in a short time.

Kim Jong Pil was a closest confident of the slain Pak Jung Hi who was bent on maintaining the "yusin" dictatorial regime. He played a role as chief of staff in a military coup d'etat which Pak Jung Hi kicked off on May 16, 1961. He found the south Korean "Central Intelligence Agency" in the same year and served as its first chief.

Kim was the author of the "ROK-Japan treaty". He said that he would make all-out efforts to conclude the "ROK-Japan treaty" if he should be called another traitor Li Wan Yong. He also strived to shore up Pak's suppressive policy as prime minister under the "yusin" system.



The Kukche Sinmun, Dec. 27, 1979

Human Rights Suppression: Japan-Born Korean Pol. Prisoners

Choe Chul-Kyo
Chin Du-Hyon
Peek Ok-Kwang
Kang Jong-Heon
Kang U-Gyu

"Five Guiltless Deathrow Inmates"

Crackdown on democratic opponents have been intensified in south Korea instead of being lessened despite Seoul's so-called "special amnesty" to restore the civil rights of former presidential candidate Kim Dae Jung and 683 others.

Illustrative of this is the case of Korean residents in Japan who are imprisoned as political criminals.

In south Korea, over sixty Korean residents from Japan are imprisoned for their alleged "political offenses." Death sentences to six of them, namely, Choe Chol Gyo, Chin Du Hyong, Paek Ok Kwang, Li Chol, Kang Jong Hon and Kang U Gyu have been upheld by the Seoul Supreme Court. **(See the partial list of political prisoners below.)**

No Improvement Of Treatment

It is already four months since the assassination of Pak Jung Hi, but no improvement of the treatment of Korean political prisoners from Japan has yet been made. They are now maltreated even more than ever before.

In the case of Mr. Kang U Gyu sentenced to capital punishment and now detained in the Sodaemun Prison in Seoul, the police authorities have removed his artificial legs under the pretext that he may commit suicide.

It is said that they are given very simple meals and their main food is boiled rice and cereals. The boiled rice and cereals are so small in quantity that they can't be held in one hand.

Winter is bitterly cold in south Korea. In the solitary cells where temperature drops as low as 10 degrees below zero, they are suffering from malnutrition or gastroenteric disorder due to the lack of physical exercise and sufficient provisions.

Miss Kim O Ja now detained in the Taegu Prison has been complaining of gastroenteric disorder since last autumn. Mr. Chin Du Hyong is so short-sighted that he needs glasses.

All Japan-born Korean political prisoners complain about the way in the so-called "conversion" statements prepared by the investigative organs have been imposed upon them by torture.

Saying that if a prisoner writes a "conversion" statement, the authorities will take a suitable or proper measure such as release or reduction of his penalty. The authorities partially permit prisoners to meet with their families in the hope that the latter will ask their sons, brothers and fathers to write "conversion" statements.

Photo shows a view of Sodaemun Prison in Seoul where many Japan-born political prisoners are imprisoned. Inset: So Sun now detained in Taegu Prison.

Active Court Struggle

In spite of Seoul's designs to get "conversion" statements from the prisoners, their court struggle and prison struggle are very active.

Mr. Choe Chol Gyo told their supporters, "At present, I have the same ideas as I had in 1975." In 1975, soon after his death sentence was confirmed, Choe Chol Gyo said in a letter to his family, "I am determined to fight until I am executed, in response to the struggles going on outside the prison. I would be happy to sacrifice myself for the restoration of democracy and peaceful reunification of our fatherland."

So Sung, who suffered nearly fatal tortures, upheld his "positive nationalism" during the second instance trial, saying, "Our country should be unified independently and peacefully." His younger brother So Jung Sik disclosed tortures and terrorism used in prison by which the police authorities tried to force him to issue a "conversion" statement. He said that he rejected every "conversion" statement offer and that he would fight against it with confidence in future, too.

National Identity Regained?

It is natural that the south Korean compatriots here should wish to visit their motherland to confirm their own national identity. They go to their homeland to learn their mother tongue, to know the real situation there, to be of service to their country, or to live the rest of their lives in their native land.

But in the face of the realities of oppression in south Korea, they come to more desire fervently to regain their national identity and reunify their homeland and to identify themselves with the interests of their own nation and country.

What awaits them there, however, is the policy of exploitation of Korean residents from Japan followed by the south Korean regime.

The south Korean regime treats communism with hostility, trying to make the people swallow the theme "threat from the north" and give them the impression that only the policy of the "government" and the views of the "government" are right.

It should also be noted that the regime has barely maintained its power by making the people believe in the "threat from the north" and publicizing it in both Japan and the U.S. The suppression of people's freedoms, maintenance of the dictatorship and military aid from the U.S. are nothing but facets of the themes "threat from the north", the state of emergency and the state of war. Not content with the tunnel incidents and tensions at Panmunjom, the regime tries to impress the people with the danger of "attack from the north" by "exposing" spying cases in south Korea.

The aspirations of Japan-born Korean political prisoners are identical with those of the democratization struggles in and out of south Korea. The struggle of political prisoners is part of the democratization struggle of the south Korean people as a whole.

Since the assassination of Pak Jung Hi, the south Korean people have demanded that the authorities establish a lasting democracy in south Korea. South Korea is now offered a good opportunity of establishing a democracy by carrying out a "constitutional revision," despite certain developments against it.

In this situation, all political and conscientious prisoners including those from Japan should be immediately released.

List

A: Name
B: Background
C: Date of Arrest or Date of Official Announcement
D: Charge
E: Legislation
F: Sentence
NOTE: (1) the first trial
(2) the second trial
(3) the third trial

A: CHOE CHOL GYO
B: Merchant in Chiba Pref.
C: Apr. 25, 1974
D: Visiting the DPRK, spying and leaking secret information, underground communist organization
E: Anti-Communist Law, National Security Law, Criminal Law
F: (1) Death penalty, Oct. 21, 1974
(2) Death penalty, Feb. 28, 1975
(3) Dismissal of final appeal, May 27, 1975

A: CHIN DU HYON
B: Vice President, Tokyo Headquarters of the Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan)
C: Nov. 5, 1974
D: Visiting the DPRK, spying and leaking secret information
E: National Security Law, Anti-Communist Law
F: (1) Death penalty, Apr. 1, 1975
(2) Death penalty, Sep. 18, 1975
(3) Dismissal of final appeal, Feb. 10, 1976

A: PAEK OK KWANG
B: Secretary General, Korean Youths' Association in Osaka
C: Nov. 22, 1975
D: Visiting the DPRK, spying and leaking secret information
F: (1) Death penalty, Apr. 30, 1976
(2) Death penalty, Aug. 31, 1976
(3) Dismissal of final appeal

A: LI CHOL
B: Kumamoto Pref., student at Koryo Univ.
D: Visiting the DPRK
F: (1) Death penalty, May 25, 1976
(2) Death penalty confirmed, Mar. 8, 1977

A: KANG JONG HON
B: Osaka Pref., student at Seoul National Univ.
D: Visiting the DPRK
E: National Security Law, Anti-Communist Law
F: (1) Death penalty
(2) Death penalty confirmed, Mar. 15, 1977

A: KANG U GYU
B: Merchant in Tokyo
C: Mar. 24, 1977
D: Organized an underground organization for espionage purposes
F: Death penalty, Feb. 28, 1978

A: KIM O JA
B: Kyoto Pref., female student at Pusan Univ.
C: Nov. 22, 1975
D: Visiting the DPRK, constituting the Revolutionary Party for Reunification at Pusan University, making and distributing handbills
F: (1) Death penalty, Apr. 30, 1976
(2) Life imprisonment
(3) Life imprisonment

Shedding Light on Korean History

How should we view the decisive factor in the development of the history? This is a fundamental question in the study and description of history.

Up to the present, the development course of human history has been thought to be a course of the alternation of production means and socio-economic structures. Hence, the decisive factor of development was regarded as the production means. Such outlook made it impossible to systematize and describe the struggle history of the working people scientifically and comprehensively.

From the philosophical principle—man is the master of everything and decides everything—President Kim Il Sung clarified the protagonists of history and motive power of social development and put forth the Juche-motivated view of social history.

The working people are protagonists of history and its motive power: the decisive factor of the development of history.

Thus, an entirely new fundamental direction and method for the description of history were detailed with the working people at the center and their independence and creativeness at the basis.

The several thousand-year history of Korea has been distorted and trampled down for a long period.

Historians of the ancient and middle ages failed to record historical facts as they were. Historical truth was buried in no small quantity. It was because of the class limitations and backward historical view of such historians. To make the matter worse, many materials were missing or were burnt during the wars.

Distortion and denial of the Korean history escalated at the hands of the reactionary historians of the Japanese colonialists. In order to colonize Korea, they fabricated Korean history at random and attempted to make the Koreans unable to know the history of their homeland, by clamouring even "Tongjo Tonggun (the same ancestory)."

Under those conditions, it is currently important to correctly reassess and systematize the distorted Korean history.

A large number of questions remain outstanding. They concern: the primitive society and the origins of the Korean nation; Kochoson (ancient Korea) and slave-owning society; the history of Koguryo; the early Korea-Japan relationships, the outbreak and development of capitalism; the bourgeois reforms.

Light was thrown upon on those problems under the guidance of President Kim Il Sung.

The presence of the primitive society in Korea and the origins of the Korean people were denied by the reactionary historians in the past as they improvised the "shifting of culture" and extremely distorted those questions. Unprincipled historians on the payroll of the Japanese and the reactionary historians asserted: There didn't exist the paleolithic age in Korea and the ancient people inhabited the Korean Peninsula for the first time in the neolithic age; Korea did not go through the bronze age and came to use stone instruments, bronze and iron wares, under the influence of neighboring states.

These allegations were meant to prove the "innate backwardness" and "deformity" of the Korean history.

Those questions directly relate to not only the origins but also the dignity of the Korean nation.

Juche-motivated archeological researches were extensively organized. Fossilized human bones of the primitive age were discovered: proof that the people inhabited the Korean Peninsula in communities with the same blood and original characteristics.

The first class state on the Korean Peninsula, Kochoson (8-7th centuries B.C.-108B.C.) was denied by the reactionary historians. One historian insisted that as the Korean people lacked ability to form a state, a Chinese named "Kija" built a state in Korea. The other said Korea didn't experience the slave-owning society and denied the existence of Kochoson.

To answer this question was whether the Korean people independently achieved an ancient civilization and built an ancient state.

The Korean nation is a homogeneous race with a five millennia history. In connection with the question, a project was conducted to excavate the relics in the northeast area of China.

Findings proved Kochoson existed as a large-scale slave-owning state in the 8-7th centuries B.C. Further proved evidence was produced of the existence of slave-owning states on the Korean Peninsula before the appearance of Koguryo (mid 1st century B.C.-668 A.D.), Paekjae (the end of 1st century B.C.-660 A.D.) and Silla (the end of B.C.-935A.D.). They were Kochoson (8-7th centuries B.C.-108 B.C.), Puyo (5th-4th centuries B.C.-the 1st A.D.) and Chinguk (the 4-3rd centuries B.C.-mid 1st century A.D.).

Historical records on Koguryo, the strongest and independent state, (the mid 1st century B.C.-668 A.D.) were limited. Many important points were mixed up as a result of the attempt of those who depended on big powers.

The tombs of King Tongmyong, the first king of Koguryo, was excavated at Mujin-ri, Ryokpo-kuyok, Pyongyang.

On the movement for the bourgeois reforms, some historians said that there was no such a movement in Korea.

When the Kapsin coup was carried out by members of the Independent Party including Kim Ok Kyun in 1884, the relationship of capitalism occurred and developed even in the feudalistic society. Reflecting such social relationship, the Kapsin coup, the bourgeois reformist movement, was carried out. The members of the Independent Party sincerely desired to modernize Korea in order to secure her independence and prosperity.

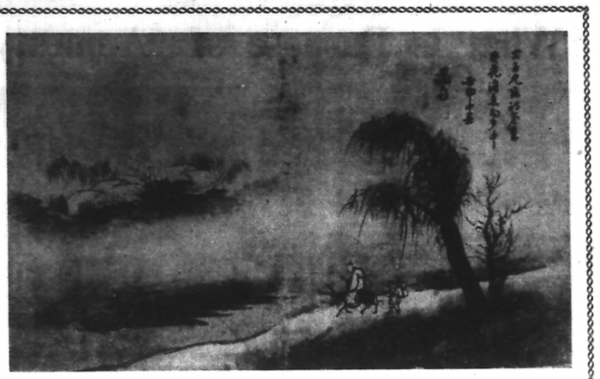
The reactionary historians said:it was impossible for the Korean feudalistic society that capitalism developed: Korea could go over to the modern society only under the influence of foreign capitalist states including Japan. Then, they repeated the "backwardness" of Korea.

The Kapsin coup was regarded as bourgeois revolution of Korea and Kim Ok Kyun could be said as a bourgeois revolutionary. He was not a pro-Japanese, though he attempted to civilize Korea.

Korean Paintings

By Chong Son

(1676-1759)



Korean Cultural History:

Culture of Kochoson (5)

(Continued from No. 980 issue of the People's Korea)

Remains and antiquities of Kochoson (8-7th centuries-108B.C.) were found in the region from the northwestern area of Korea to the basin of the Liao River in Northeastern China.

The oldest remain of Kochoson known today is the Kangshang tumulus in the southernmost part of the Liaotung Peninsula, Northeast China. The tumulus was that of an aristocrat in 8-7th centuries B.C. This tumulus was excavated at the same time with the Loushang tomb in Luta City of Lioaning Province, China.

The Kangshang tumulus is rectangle in shape, 28 m in length from east to west and 20 m from north to south. It consists of 23 chambers centering chamber No. 17.

The social standing and class of those people can be indicated by the size, shape and arrangement of those chambers of the tomb.

From the Kangshang tomb, bones of about 140 slaves were discovered. This forced self-immolation of a large number of slaves indicates that strong state power was exercised by the slave-owning classes.

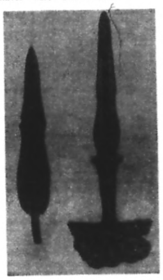
Exhumed from the Kangshang tomb were many relics including 6 lute-shaped stilettoes. About 874 relics were unearthed, though many were stolen and were damaged by cremation on the occasion of the burial.

Among the relics are: jewel-decorated necklaces, weapons and ornaments made of bronze such as lute-shaped stilettoes, heads of spears, arrowheads, *pinyo* (Korean ornamental hairpin), bracelet. Four molds for making these weapons and ornaments are also included, an indication that a large quantity of bronze ware were considered to be used and most of them were monopolized by aristocrats.

A splinter of ornament was found netted with a fine copper wire from the Kangshang tomb. The diameter of the wire is about 0.2-0.3 mm. This shows the high level of bronze molding technique and the luxurious lives of slave-owning classes in those days.

The Loushang tomb belonged to those of 7-5 centuries B.C. The shape and size of tomb also indicate the differences in the positions of the people.

About 90 bronze artifacts were excavated from the Loushang tomb. They include lute-shaped stilettoes, arrowheads, shield, fittings of vehicles, axes, chisels. Human bones of 50 slaves were also found.



Lute-shaped stilettoes

Lute-shaped stilettoes typify the antiquities of Kochoson. This stilettoes was much used in the first period of Kochoson (1,000 B.C.). The shape of stilettoes is similar to the Korean old musical instrument lute and this was called lute-shaped stilettoes. This was unearthed from the territory of Kochoson from the northeast area of Korea to the basin of the Liao River. Until today, about 60 lute-shaped stilettoes were unearthed. It is presumed that lute-shaped stilettoes were used from 8-4th centuries B.C.

The lute-shaped stilettoes was original of Kochoson and was not found in other countries near Kochoson. The length of lute-shaped stilettoes was 30-40 cm. and a sword, a hilt and a tip of a hilt were separately made, and assembled, and its technique was elaborate.

On the hilt of a stilettoes was an elaborately engraved geometrical pattern or a zigzag pattern. The shape and its makeup, and its elaborate pattern formed a formative art.

Lute-shaped stilettoes were developed into slender bronze daggers. The slender bronze dagger was also a prefabricated dagger. About 100 daggers were excavated so far in most areas of Korea except a part of its northern area. This slender bronze dagger was also found from the northernmost of the Littoral Province part (the USSR) to the southernmost of Japan.

The slender bronze dagger was supposed to be used in 5-1st centuries B.C. and its shape and quality were far refined and developed. The culture of Kochoson represented by lute-shaped stilettoes and slender bronze daggers were completely indigenous separated from the bronze culture of other countries.

Tombs of Kochoson people in the period when the lute-shaped stilettoes were used: tombs made by stones piled and tombs of stone rooms.

The state position and property differences of the buried person in differences of quality and quantity could be found in the antiquities of the former tombs.

The common accessories of those tombs were tools such as axes, swords, chisels, gimlets and ornaments.

In the end of Kochoson, tombs divided by stone chambers were much seen. Since the ruin of Kochoson, such tombs continued to be in wide used.

The tombs made of two big earthenware pots were also found. This tomb was for children, and there found no accessories.

The relics discovered in the tombs of Kochoson implied advanced culture.

Technique of metal refining developed. Alloy technique also reached a high level and the rate of copper, tin and lead in alloy were exact. From that period, iron wares including axes were also manufactured. Various kinds of weapons and farming instruments involved fairly-developed metal processing technique believed to be used widely.

(To be continued)

Short Story:

Happiness (4)

By Sok Yun Ki

(Continued from the previous issue)

At this point my friend paused. The river began to stir. It was darker now, and the early spring air was still rather chilly. Our coats flapped in the wind and a lock of his long hair blew across his high forehead.

I gathered from his talk Ok Ju was the assistant doctor whom I had heard about from him.

Kyong Suk was Hyong Jin's wife. She had been a beauty. Of course, if I were asked to point out which feature of her face made her beautiful, I could not. But she was a beautiful woman with her dark, deep-set eyes, somewhat pointed nose, full lips, with her soft hair reaching her shoulders. Then the way she carried herself, her graceful figure. If you take separately her forehead—a little high perhaps—it may be a minus to her. But taken all in all, even her minus become a plus in the total picture.

My friend Hyong Jin used to take a stroll along this promenade together with his wife Kyong Suk. Recalling this, I could easily picture what he had experienced when he got to the new hospital. It must have been quite a storm for him.

Hyong Jin lit up a cigarette. After a long puff at it, he continued with his story in a calm tone.

The shock left me in a state of confusion. I guess I did not hide it because she asked me:

"Doctor! Anything wrong? Are you ill?"

I warned myself to be careful and not make a fool of myself before her. I calmed down and spoke, with a slight tremor in my voice:

"No! Nothing is the matter. Only it seems a little stuffy in here. I'm going to wait out in the waiting room."

To tell you the truth, the room was most pleasant. Air was fresh, cool in the early breeze. I was afraid she had noticed my confusion. I rushed out to the waiting room as if running away. She watched me go. I could sense in her round eyes her inquiry and a shadow of—even I could call it a shadow of sadness.

Such was our first meeting, something extraordinary. And this strange sense of frustration, the inconsolable feeling carried over into our work, bringing many unpleasant situation.

I was head of the department and she was an assistant doctor in the same department. But the funny thing was that intentionally I tried to avoid her. The unhappy first meeting was always in my mind and I simply could not shake it off.

Gradually I learned Ok Ju was 24 years old and single. But with the very poor figure I cut in her presence at our first meeting, she seemed to be afraid of me and she too tried in every way to avoid me.

Everywhere she went song and laughter followed her. If she went in a ward the groaning ended. But should I appear for any reason, everything died out. I could sense it. I was what you call a wet blanket. Not a very nice thing to be.

In this way, whether intentional or not, a cleavage was formed between us.

On my part, I tried to be indifferent, business-like in dealing with her. And that's the way I felt about her too. By now she appeared to me as too friendly with everyone, even frivolous. I began to think she was not what I had thought her to be.

Don't ask me what drove my thinking in that direction, because I didn't know myself. At any rate, time flew by; and it seemed I just let things pass by—the things that I as head of the department should attend to.

In the meantime I concentrated on my research projects. In a sense, it was my way of forgetting all these funny notions.

It was, as you know, during the wartime that I had chosen a few subjects for research in the field of surgery. My going to M town itself had something to do with my work. I wanted to complete my work there. Whenever I had a chance I visited disabled soldiers or had them come to the hospital for observation. My days were full.

Soon the country was to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the August 15 Liberation.

At my hospital there was to be a circle performance under the auspices of the Youth League. It seemed preparations had started before I got there. I don't know how they learned I sometimes sang, but they insisted on my appearing on the programme with a song. I tried in every way to dodge it. But no! I was then around 36—so I was ready to make a fool of myself. Even though there was little chance of rehearsing I promised to sing a solo and to be in the chorus.

The celebration took place on the evening of the 14th. The patients filled the bedecked club room; there were also the entire staff of the hospital and their family members. So you can imagine how the place was crowded. And I'm telling you, no regular theatre ever had such an enthusiastic audience. More than that. There was an air of family intimacy mixed with good-natured banter and jokes characteristic of such gatherings.

Not only the patients but everyone was in a joyous mood in celebrating the holiday.

That night Ok Ju was lovelier than ever. She was dressed in white, which flattered her. And how dignified she looked too.

On the background of the stage were hung a portrait of Premier Kim Il Sung and the national emblem. Flowers and tapes of different colours decorated the stage. When Ok Ju appeared on the stage the whole house went simply wild. I dare say no artist ever had such a reception. I tell you it was the most genuine applause—from their hearts, I would say. People were expressing their gratitude to her. Then, perhaps they were proud of her as one of them.

How she sang that night! I had not thought much of her singing—all I had heard up to that time was her humming. But the way she sang! Her voice was beautiful and she knew how to handle it. And she sang with such enthusiasm and appealing power! She was as good as any professional singer that night.

As she sang the audience sat enraptured.

My turn was to come after Ok Ju, so I was backstage while she was singing her number. I noticed an elderly woman waiting for her by the stage-door. The woman caught Ok Ju by the hand when she came out from one wing of the stage and took her to a corner. (I learned later it was Ok Ju's mother). It seemed she had something rather urgent to tell Ok Ju, and she spoke in a whisper, gesticulating a great deal. Of course, I had no idea what she was saying but I noticed a shadow flit across Ok Ju's face as she listened to her.

In the meantime in the hall the audience kept applauding. They wanted Ok Ju again.

She seemed upset, but presently she ran back on to the stage again. Her encore was, even to my ears, not so good. She was far from being sure of herself, and faltered slightly. But she managed to finish the song. And it was good enough for the audience. Again there was a burst of applause.

I could tell how much she was loved by the patients and the hospital staff. And it made me wonder why my impressions of her had been so different.

The people kept clapping. But this time as soon as she descended from the stage, she rushed to the Youth League chairman to exchange a few words.

Then she looked around. Maybe she was looking for me, I don't know. But I was about to step on the stage. Seeing this, she rushed to the pharmacy soon both of them—Ok Ju and her mother—disappeared.

The clapping did not abate. The master of ceremonies tried everything to quiet the audience, but they would not have "No" for an answer. They kept calling Ok Ju. And the master of ceremonies, former head of the pharmaceutical department, waited a moment, not knowing what to do. It put me in a very awkward position. I was now at the stage door! I did not know whether I should go out or return to my seat.

What were we to do with the people who wanted Ok Ju again? And who were the audience? The patients for whom we were ready to give everything.

But where was Ok Ju? She was to sing in the chorus, too, but she had gone. I said to myself. She must have had a good reason but, after all, it was personal. The whole thing left a feeling of unpleasantness with me.

The master of ceremonies went back to the stage to quiet the audience. After much appealing, he managed to go on with the program.

Her demeanour hurt my feelings. I thought. After all she sang well everywhere and at any time, then why all of a sudden when the people wanted her to sing most......

(To be continued)

Brief News From S. Korean Dailies

Seven European Countries Imposing Further Import Restrictions on Korean Products

A total of seven advanced nations, including the United States and Japan, are reportedly moving to impose further import restrictions on more Korean products this year.

Authorities concerned said on February 21 that the United States was expected to impose import restrictions on such commodities imported from Korea as enameled porcelain ware, nails, rubber footwear, and leather apparel. On leather apparel, in particular, some kind of import restrictions, including a 31 per cent tariff, will be imposed.

Japan, on the other hand, is inclined to restrict the import of socks, synthetic fiber yarn, garments and footwear in addition to the current import restrictions placed on such textiles as raw silk, thrown silk and silk fabrics imported from Korea.

Canada is moving to restrict the import of tires from Korea, Britain leather luggage, Italy metallic tableware, Australia bolts and nuts, wigs and stearic acid and Greece polyester fiber.

The authorities said that currently a total of 42 Korean products, including TV sets, textiles and steel products, are subject to import restrictions in 18 countries out of the 24 OECD nations.

(*The Korea Herald*, February 22, 1980)

3,000 Factories Accused of Bad Food Production

Some 3,100 food factories or 22.7 per cent of the nation's 13,648 food makers were found to have produced harmful or low-quality foods last year, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs said on February 21.

This result was found in an inspection conducted last year. The substandard foods totaled 15 kinds including confectionary, dried fishes, edible ice and bean curds, officials said.

As to provinces, North Kyongsang Province led the list with 477, followed by Seoul, 390; South Cholla Province, 342; Kyonggi Province, 327; South Kyongsang Province, 317; Kangwon Province, 316; Pusan, 289; South Chungchong Province, 274; North Cholla Province, 220; Cheju Island, 95; and North Chungchong Province, 55.

The ministry plans to conduct nationwide investigations of substandard or harmful foods from March to December this year, officials said.

(*The Korea Herald*, February 22, 1980)

Gov't Official Nabbed; Kimpo Construction Fraud Leads to 3 Indictments

Prosecutors in Seoul on February 20 arrested and indicted three persons, including Kim Hyo Song, an official of the Ministry of Transportation, on charges of bribery in connection with a new terminal building being constructed for Kimpo International Airport.

Prosecutor Lee Jong Nam of the Supreme Prosecutor's Office booked and indicted six other persons on similar charges.

Two other persons arrested were identified as Lee Won Do, an executive director of the Hyundai Construction Co., and Pak Jun Song, chief of the office at the construction site.

Kim was arrested earlier this month on charges of having received more than 4 million won from the arrested company officials since November 1978 in return for condoning the construction of the terminal building with substandard materials. (*The Korea Herald*, February 22, 1980)

Canned Mushroom Export Prospect Uncertain

A continuing fall-off in overseas demand and rising raw material prices are working to make prospects uncertain for sustaining Korea's canned mushroom export growth this year, according to Korea Canned Goods Export Association.

The unfavorable canned mushroom export prospects for 1980 are explained by the recent slowing pace of shipments, association officials said. The latest figures show foreign sales of canned mushroom last month totalled $2,655,000, a mere five per cent of the annual goal of $53 million and a drop of as much as 24.2 per cent as against $3,458,000 reached in the same month last year.

As a main reason for the slowing export performance, it was cited that export orders from the United States, Canada and other leading importers around the world were not flowing in as readily as they were in the past due to the current economic recession in those countries, on top of the fact that the importing nations were imposing quantitative import controls in the form of a voluntary regulation by exporting countries.

Added to this, the association officials said, there are other factors for the Korean-made canned mushroom exports to lose momentum; Communist China is intensively invading the American and Canadian markets at a lower price than offered by Korea, while Korean exports are tending to become less competitive in these markets due to higher costs caused by major raw material price rises including a 20.5 per cent increase in the price of tin plate used in making cans for mushrooms.

(*The Korea Herald*, February 23, 1980)

Argentina Official in Seoul for Talks on Immigration

Remingio Azcona, national director of immigrations of Argentina, is visiting Seoul for talks on the resumption of the emigration of Koreans to his country, it was learned on February 22.

He visited the Health and Social Affairs and Foreign Affairs Ministries on February 22. He also visited the Korea Overseas Development Corporation during the day.

He has exchanged views with Korean officials on the resumption of Korean emigration to Argentina, informed sources said.

(*The Korea Herald*, February 23, 1980)

Basket Formula: Won-SDRs Linkage Planned

The won currency will be linked to the SDRs (special drawing rights) of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) from this week.

The Ministry of Finance announced on February 23 that the curren U.S. dollar pegging formula under which the value of the local currency is fixed at the greenback in parity rates will be replaced with the multicurrency basket formula next week as a step toward the floating foreign exchange system widely adopted by the advanced nations. The SDRs, popularly referred to as "paper gold," is a basket of 16 key currencies including the U.S. dollar, the Japanese yen and Deutsche mark.

With the implementation of the multicurrency basket system, the won currency parity rates against the key international currencies will be fluctuated more realistically and flexibly, the ministry officials said. The basket formula was the highlight of the economic measures package announced by the government Jan. 12 which also called for across the board bank interest hike by six per cent.

The Korean basket will be comprised of the currencies of the nation's major trading partners in relation to their market shares, they explained.

As follow-up measures to the introduction of the multicurrency basket system, the government has abolished the certificates of foreign exchange which have thus far been used as the instruments in settling foreign transactions by importers or exporters.

Authorized persons, however, will continue to be permitted to have foreign currency accounts with the foreign exchange banks with which they settle their international obligations.

The implementation of the multicurrency basket system from this week means that Korean exporters and importers, in particular, are now open to foreign exchange risks daily.

The most characteristic feature of the SDRs is that they are backed simply by the commitment of participating IMF nations to accept them in exchange for convertible currencies. Thus the value of the SDRs is much like the value of most domestic money in that participating nations agree to accept it as legal tender.

The combination of the SDRs and the Korean basket comprising currencies of major Korea's trading partners is aimed at maintaining the won currency at a realistic level. (*The Korea Herald*, February 24, 1980)

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